

Appl. No. 10/792,149  
Docket No. 9173L  
Amdt. dated November 28, 2006  
Reply to Office Action mailed on August 28, 2006  
Customer No. 27752

## REMARKS

### Claim Status

Claims 1 - 23 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claims 1 - 3, 8 - 12, 14, and 16 - 23 are canceled without prejudice.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note that Claims 4 - 7, 11 - 13, and 15 are allowable, pending the amendments suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner's helpful comments in this regard are acknowledged.

Claims 4 - 7, 11 - 13, and 15 are allowable presenting Claim 4, 11, and 15 each as independent claims including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. In view of the amendments herein, it is submitted that these claims are now fully in condition for allowance.

### Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1- 23 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Amendment-Response to Office Action.doc)

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